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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOIN RIDESOLUTIONS VANPOOL FROM SPRINGFIELD TO DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS AND RIDE FREE DURING MONTH OF OCTOBER

(Columbus-October 8, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) RideSolutions Program is offering a free trial on the Springfield to downtown Columbus vanpool during the month of October. With the weather starting to change and with children back in school, now is the time for commuters to consider vanpooling long distances to work. In today's economy sharing the commute to work provides savings in parking and fuel costs, automobile maintenance and vehicle emissions.

"A lot of people start off reluctant to van pool. They think it's too inconvenient or they give up some measure of freedom. They even wonder what kind of people they will be riding with. But, once they start, they discover they can read or sleep or chat. They even discover that the people they are riding with are just like them. People understand about saving money on gas and parking, but they forget about the wear and tear on their car. If you include auto maintenance and depreciation, savings can top \$150 per month. Currently there are five open seats available on the vanpool. We've had people from Fairborn, Xenia, Beavercreek and other communities in Greene, Clark and Montgomery counties (riding on the van). We meet in Springfield and commute from there to Downtown Columbus. With a full van the cost can be as low and \$148 (a month)," states Springfield vanpool driver Mike Lyons.

The Springfield vanpool is for commuters who work a 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. shift. The van departs Springfield at 6:10 a.m., makes a stop in London at 6:45 a.m. then arrives in downtown Columbus around 7:15 a.m.

RideSolutions is a program of MORPC assisting commuters working in our 12 county region in choosing sustainable modes of transportation to their workplace. To learn more about how you can get involved in a vanpool contact RideSolutions at 1-888-742-RIDE, polmsted@morpc.org or www.morpc.org.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.